

ECSU Police Increase Campus Safety

by Sharon Gorgani
Staff Writer

Safety in schools has become a big issue on college campuses in high schools and elementary schools. With the outbreak of school shootings and constant violence, many students and school officials are concerned about school safety. ECSU's campus police has taken safety measures that they feel will keep students safe.

These safety measures include additional security call boxes and additional campus security officers.

In addition to the seven emergency boxes already installed, five emergency call boxes have been strategically placed on campus in isolated areas, such as parking lots and the New Fine Arts building.

Campus police has also boosted the number of patrolling security officers and has extended the hours of the shifts they patrol. In addition to their regular duties, the extra officers will check

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— Crystal Foust

dorms, investigate any unusual people on campus and assist the dorm staff in making sure that students and their dormitories are safe.

When questioned on how safe she felt on campus, ECSU student, Crystal Foust stated, "I feel fairly safe on campus despite school shootings and violence because God is my protector. The violence in school is a problem and measures should be taken to reduce the problem." Crystal also stated that extra police officers and call boxes are helpful but not totally reassuring. "The new call boxes and officers help me feel better but not necessarily safer. It is good however, that campus police is trying to meet the safety needs of the students."

More call boxes were placed on

campus because enrollment has increased significantly and there is a need for higher safety, according to a campus police official who did not want to be identified.

Though additional security boxes have been installed and more officers now patrol the campus, ECSU police encourage students to ensure their own personal safety on campus by taking precautions such as being aware of their surroundings, informing someone of their whereabouts when they travel alone, walking in well-lit areas, traveling in groups when going out at night and reporting suspicious activity or people to campus police.

Precaution can mean a big difference between a safe and unsafe campus, according to an ECSU officer.

Low Attendance Flusters Reps

by Detra Stith
Staff Writer

Although there appears to be an increase in school spirit this year, students rarely participate in Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior class meetings. Class meetings aren't as glamorized as SGA student body meetings, for example, which bring in crowds of students who attend with the expectations of being entertained as well as informed, but they do disseminate important information about issues and events that affect each class such as community service projects, academic concerns, campus-based activities and the bond referendum. Class meetings were scheduled in an effort to encourage students to attend the town meeting that addressed the bond and register to vote.

Because of the lack of support and participation from students, class officers and representatives for the 2000-2001 school year are disappointed and become discouraged when a class meeting is scheduled and students don't participate.

"I have tried to conduct business at a senior class meeting where there were only about eight students in attendance," said Deanna Moring, Senior Class President. "This number of students is very low when you consider that there are at least 200 students in the senior class."

Many students have complained about their lack of knowledge about academic information, which is usually announced during class meetings, and their inability to fund-raise for activities such as class trips, but few are present at class meetings to obtain important information and voice their ideas and opinions and work toward generating ways to improve things they don't like. "Once you began to participate, you then have the right to complain," said Aletea Joosten, Freshman Class Parliamentarian.

School of Business Walks for Hunger

by Chi'Mur 'C' Knight
Staff Writer

Members of S.I.F.E. (Students in Free Enterprise) and The Business and Economics Scholars, along with several members of the Elizabeth City community participated in the 17th annual Food Bank of the Albermarle walk for hunger.

The Food Bank was established in 1982 as a food source for the rural poor, and since its inception the organization has distributed over 12,000,000 pounds of food; over 2,100,000 pounds of which were distributed in 1999. The Food Bank is under the leadership of Gustave G. Smith who was named Executive Director on June 26, 2000 and who has an extensive background in the non-profit field in management, fund raising and resource development.

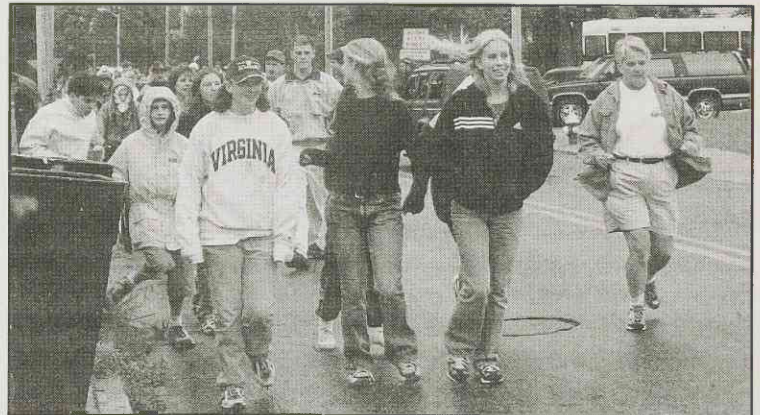
The main purpose of the Food

Bank of the Albermarle is to feed hungry men, women and children of Northeastern North Carolina. There are two function areas of The Food Bank: the Food Pantry, which assists Pasquotank and Camden County with food and the Food Bank, which provides food to surrounding Food Pantries, Daycares and various organizations. The Food Bank of the Albermarle serves 15 counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northhamptom, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrell and Washington.

"Volunteering is one of the most rewarding and motivating experiences you could have during your college years and beyond, and there are several organizations here in Elizabeth City that need help such as The Food Bank, the Salvation Army and the S.P.C.S., said Sharlene

Steward an ECSU senior. "Volunteering is two-fold. One, the community becomes more productive as individual needs are met and secondly, you gain valuable hands on training.

Although the weather was not as cooperative as the participants, the walk turned out to be a success. A lot of money was raised for disaster relief and food resources.



Walk for Hunger participants.

—Photo courtesy of Chi' Mur Knight